

### OBEY TALKS ABOUT WHAT WISCONSINITES WILL GAIN FROM HEALTH REFORM

WASHINGTON, DC – Congress approved an historic health reform bill on March 21<sup>st</sup> with Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey's support. Obey called the reform package "one of the greatest advancements for average working people" he's seen during his time in Congress.

"I've received letters and letters from small business owners who are charged more for coverage, from families who are tired of being jerked around by their insurance companies and from hard working folks who just cannot afford coverage. The system was clearly broken," Obey said. "This legislation will go a long way to help."

Obey continued by highlighting ten things Wisconsinites will see thanks to health reform.

1. Insurance companies will no longer be able reject people for pre-existing conditions like heart disease and diabetes.

1. Insurance companies won't be able to tell people who have faithfully paid their premiums that they have 'run out of coverage' because they have hit a lifetime cap or low annual cap.

1. Seniors will pay less for their prescription drugs because reform finally closes the outrageous Medicare Part D "donut hole".

1. The largest tax cut for health care in history. Low and middle income Americans will receive financial assistance to help pay for insurance.

1. Small businesses will receive tax credits if they voluntarily decide they would like to provide coverage for their workers.

1. All co-pays for preventative services will be eliminated in private plans and in Medicare.

1. New health insurance exchanges will be created in the private market that will make insurance more affordable and more accessible for small businesses and individuals.

1. Affordable health insurance coverage will be available to 32 million more Americans.

1. Medicare will begin compensating providers for the quality of care they provide rather than the quantity of procedures they perform. This will benefit Wisconsin's doctors and hospitals which typically provide low cost, efficient health care with good outcomes.

1. Reform is fully paid for and is estimated to *reduce* the deficit by \$138 billion over the next ten years.

Obey added, "After ninety years of trying, the long overdue legislation we passed today will finally start to civilize the American healthcare system by getting insurance companies' noses out of decisions that should be between patients and their doctors and assuring that every American has the opportunity to get the medical care they need without begging. It's about time."

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